

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Examiner is thanked for extending the courtesy of an interview to Applicant's representative on March 9, 2005.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-22 are pending in this application.

**Request for Acknowledgement of Claim for Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119:**

The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 from JP patent application no. 2000-72904. Section 1 of the Office Action acknowledges receipt of the priority papers. Applicant respectfully requests that the next Office Action also acknowledge Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 so that the record is clear.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102:**

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 09-62729 (hereinafter "JP '729")<sup>1</sup>. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Applicant respectfully submits that JP '729 fails to disclose each element of the claims. For example, JP '729 fails to disclose, *inter alia*, "retrieving and displaying cost factor data of the product, which include cost factors and values of the cost factors, the

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<sup>1</sup> Attached is an English translation of JP 09-62729 obtained by machine from the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) website.

cost factor data of the product being displayed in a modifiable manner” and “displaying the computed cost of the product,” as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Independent claims 13 and 16-17 require similar features. Similarly, claim 7 requires “a display device for displaying the cost computed by the cost computing device, wherein the display device displays the values of the cost factors in a modifiable manner.”

The above claimed features are supported by, for example, Fig. 9 and pages 20-21 of the originally-filed specification. In particular, page 20, lines 2-3 of the specification states “Furthermore, at step 205 of Fig. 5, the cost factor data are modified or added through the CAD operation as required.” Page 21, lines 4-6 of the specification states “That is, the cost factor data are modified or added by the manual input operation.” Finally, page 21, lines 14-17 of the specification states “the governed input value of other cost factor input field is automatically renewed upon modification of the input value of the one cost factor input field.”

JP ‘729 fails to disclose the above limitations required by independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 16-17 and their respective dependents. In particular, paragraph [0083] of JP ‘729 discloses cost factor generation section 139 obtaining the cost factor(s), which is the information required to compute the cost of the component, based on the CAD data 141 of the component inputted by the user. This cost factor(s) is then used to compute the cost by the cost estimating section 1310 (see paragraph [0108]). JP ‘729 discloses the cost factor data being automatically obtained from the CAD data, but fails to teach displaying the cost factor data in a

modifiable manner. The cost factor generation section 139 does not allow the user to modify the cost factor data.

At paragraph [0039], JP '729 discloses the user input of some parameters (e.g., a size, a parent feature and a position) of the corresponding feature of the CAD data through the input device 110. Fig. 7 of JP '729 shows these parameters (the type, the size, the coordinate, the parent feature and the relative position) of the various features (features 1-6) of the CAD data. More specifically, JP '729 teaches that the user can input, for example, a plate thickness, a plate length and a plate width of a rectangular base plate, which serves as the feature of the CAD data. However, JP '729 fails to teach displaying the cost factor data (or values of the cost factors) in a modifiable manner.

Accordingly, respectfully submits that claims 1-17 are not anticipated by JP '729 and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

**New Claims:**

New claims 18-22 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. Claims 18-22 depend from independent claims 1, 7, 13, 16 and 17, respectively. Applicant submits that new claims 18-22 are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

**Conclusion:**

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions

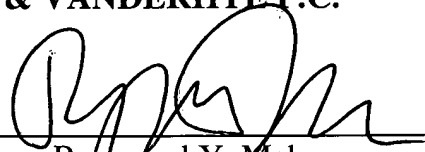
**SUZUKI et al.**  
**Application No. 09/768,462**  
**March 23, 2005**

or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the  
Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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